

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 05845 060440Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 NEA-14 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EUR-25 SAJ-01

SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /145 W
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O 060358Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4366

INFO USDEL JEC PARIS IMMEDIATE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SAIGON 5845

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: SONG PHU SCHOOL MORTARED

FOLLOWING MESSAGE SENT FROM CAN THO MAY 5, 1974. ACTION SAIGON
IMMEDIATE. REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR ACTION.

QUOTE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: MOPS VS

SUBJECT: SONG PHU SCHOLL MORTARED

SUMMARY: MORTARING OF SONG PHU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL MAY 4
INITIATES ICCS OBSERVATION. END SUMMARY.

1. SONG PHU ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LOCATED WS990179 IN SONG PHU
VILLAGE, BINH MINH (D), VINH LONG (P) RECEIVED MORTAR FIRE AT
1515 HOURS MAY 4. INITIAL REPORTS LISTED 4 CHILDREN DEAD, 20
CHILDREN WOUNDED AND 3 ADULTS WOUNDED FROM 8 ROUNDS OF 82MM.

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CONGEN OFFICER VISITING SITE 0830 HOURS MAY 5 FOUND

DISAGREEMENT ON NUMBER OF CASUALTIES AND ROUNDS. FIVE SMALL COFFINS WERE SEEN IN SCHOOLYARD, VILLAGE POLICE REPORT 37 OTHER VICTIMS HOSPITALIZED IN VINH LONG OF WHICH 28 WERE SCHOOL CHILDREN, 7 CIVILIAN ADULTS, AND 2 SOLDIERS. OF THESE THREE MORE SCHOOLCHILDREN HAVE SINCE DIED, LEAVING 34 PERSONS ALIVE. NUMBER OF ROUNDS VARIES FROM 8 TO 5, POLICE REPORT FIVE AS FOLLOWS: 2 INTO SCHOOLYARD, 1 THROUGH ROOF INTO CLASSROOM, 1 BEYOND SCHOOL (OVERSHOOT). THESE FOUR EXPLODED. FIFTH ROUND STRUCK SHORT OF SCHOOL, DID NOT EXPLODE, AND IS VISIBLE IN GROUND. ITS TAIL HAS 10 FINS, AS DOES ANOTHER INTACT TAILFIN ELEMENT SHOWN CONGEN OFFICER AND CLAIMED BY POLICE TO HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM SCHOOLYARD. THESE ARE SAID TO BE 82MM PIECES.

2. SCHOOL IS 3 BUILDING U-SHAPED COMPLEX OPEN TO NORTH AND FACING HIGHWAY 4 WITH SCHOOLYARD GATE APPROXIMATELY 25 METERS SOUTH OF HIGHWAY EDGE. COMPLEX IS FLANKED ON EAST BY VILLAGE MILITARY COMPOUND AND ON WEST BY VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE WHICH SHARES A BUILDING WITH VILLAGE POLICE OFFICE. UNEXPLODED ROUND IS INBEDDED IN HIGHWAY EMBANKMENT 10 METERS SHORT OF POLICE OFFICE. JUDGED FROM ANGLE OF VISIBLE TAIL, ROUND WAS FIRED ACROSS HIGHWAY 4 FROM NORTHLY POSITION.

3. INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO TPJMC CHIEF COL. LOC WHO INFORMED REGION VII ICCS CHAIRMAN OF-THE-WEEK HARTONO (INDONESIAN) AT 1730 MAY 4. HARTONO ASKED HOW SOON FORMAL COMPLAINT COULD BE READY. LOC DELIVERED FORMAL COMPLAINT TO HARTONO AT 1930, HARTONO ISSUED CALL FOR MEETING AND AGENDA TO OTHER DELEGATIONS AT 2100. MEETING SCHEDULED 0900. MAY 5 (EARLIEST LEGALLY POSSIBLE) TO BE FOLLOWED BY OBSERVATION TRIP. HARTONO HOPED TO BE AT THE SCHOOL WITH COL LOC AND IRANIAN DEL. BEFORE 1100. HARTONO EXPRESSED HOPE MOMENTUM OF ACTIVITY COULD BE SUSTAINED IN VIEW OF FACT IRANIANS ASSUME CHAIRMANSHIP AT 1200 TODAY.

4. SONG PHU VILLAGERS SAY VILLAGE HAS NOT BEEN ATTACKED SINCE 1968. AREA IS NORMALLY PEACEFUL.
WRIGHT UNQUOTE
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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